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REMARKS

Claims 4-10, 13, 16-18, 22-25, 32, and 33 are pending. Claims 4, 10, 13, 16, and 22 have been amended, claims 1-3, 11, 12, 14, 15, 19-21, and 26-31 have been canceled, and claims 32 and 33 have been added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

I. Telephone Interview on February 8, 2005.

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner and his Supervisor for graciously extending Applicants' representative a telephone interview to discuss the rejections in the Office Action. During the interview, the amendments in this paper were discussed as distinguishing the invention from the references of record. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner indicated that these amendments should be sufficient to overcome all or a portion of the rejections in the Office Action. A detailed discussion of the differences between the amended claims and the cited references is provided below for the Examiner's consideration.

II. The Rejection of Claims 4-9, 13, 14, 16-18, 22-25, and 30.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the above-noted claims under 35 USC § 103(a) for being anticipated by a combination of the Conrad and Cohen patents. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

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Claim 4 recites a method for monitoring operation of a spacecraft by retrieving telemetry data indicative of malfunction of the spacecraft from a storage device, processing the telemetry data, and making the processed telemetry data accessible on a network. At least said processing and making steps are automatically performed in response to a request for telemetry data received from a customer or technician and the request is received through the network. In addition to these features, claim 4 recites "automatically creating an accounting record in response to said request for the telemetry data, said accounting record indicating a cost of downloading the processed telemetry data indicative of the malfunction of the spacecraft to the customer or technician from said internet website." The Conrad patent does not teach or suggest these features.

The Conrad patent discloses downloading telemetered satellite data to a satellite user through a network such as the internet. However, Conrad does not teach or suggest the step of automatically creating an accounting record as quoted above. In an attempt to make up for these deficiencies, the Cohen patent was cited.

The Cohen patent discloses a system which transfers programming information and other data to a television for display. The system includes a database located at a television station which receives a TV broadcast signal containing data. The data is then transmitted to a user's television over a public switched telephone network (PSTN). At column 16, lines 5-9, the Cohen patent further discloses that the telephone network includes an accounting mechanism for the data transfer. (See column 16, lines 5-9). The Examiner relied on the disclosure to supply the features of claim 4 missing from the Conrad patent.

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However, Cohen does not disclose the same accounting feature recited in claim 4, i.e., automatically creating an accounting record in response to a customer request for telemetry data, where the telemetry data is indicative of a malfunction of the spacecraft from a storage device. Instead, Cohen performs an accounting function relating to transmission of a television signal. The data transmitted with the signal is related to television programming and does not provide any indication of whether a spacecraft is malfunctioning, i.e., Cohen does not teach or suggest performing an accounting function "in response to said request for telemetry data" which is "indicative of a malfunction of the spacecraft" as recited in claim 4.

Claim 4 further recites that the accounting record is indicative of a cost of sending the processed telemetry data which is indicative of a malfunction of the spacecraft, through the network, to the customer or technician from said internet website. The Cohen patent also does not teach or suggest these features.

Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 and its dependent claims are allowable over a Conrad-Cohen combination.

Claim 13 recites features similar to those which patentably distinguish claim 4 from the cited combination, e.g., "a storage device for storing telemetry data indicative of a malfunction of the spacecraft" and a "processor which automatically creates an accounting record in response to the request for the telemetry data, said accounting record indicating a cost of sending the processed telemetry data indicative of the malfunction of the spacecraft through the network." It is therefore submitted that claim 13 and its dependent claims are allowable over a Conrad-Cohen combination.

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Claim 16 recites features similar to those which patentably distinguish claim 4 from the cited combination, e.g., "wherein the processor automatically creates an accounting record in response to a request for the telemetry data indicative of a malfunction of the spacecraft, said accounting record indicating a cost of downloading the processed telemetry data indicative of the malfunction of the spacecraft to the customer or technician from said internet website." Claim 16 also recites that the automatically processes the telemetry data in response to detection of a customer logon onto a network site. The Conrad and Cohen patents fail to teach or suggest a processor of this type.

With regard to this latter feature, Conrad discloses a system for monitoring a spacecraft, which includes a memory for storing telemetry data. Conrad, however, does not teach or suggest a processor which automatically processes the telemetry data in response to detection of a customer logon to a network website. This may be accomplished, for example, by control code which drives the website. When this code detects a customer logon (e.g., userID and password), the code would initiate functions to automatically process telemetry data for the identified customer in response. The Conrad patent does not disclose these features, and neither does the Cohen patent.

Absent a teaching or suggestion of these features from either reference in the cited combination, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 is allowable along with its dependent claims.

Claim 22 recites a method for providing an interactive website which relates to spacecraft operation. The method includes, among other features, "displaying (a) a first selectable icon relating to formulation of a request for telemetry data, (b) a second selectable icon relating to access of customer account information, and (c) a third selectable icon relating to customer service, and displaying a list of selectable parameters on said website when the first icon is selected which

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provides an indication of data relating to spacecraft operation." The Conrad patent discloses a customer may use an interactive website to receive telemetry data. However, Conrad does not disclose the form or functionality defined by the above-underlined portions of claim 22, and neither does Cohen.

Absent a teaching or suggestion of these features, it is respectfully submitted that claim 22 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited combination.

III. The Rejection of Claims 10, 11, 19, 20, and 31.

The Examiner rejected the above-noted claims under 35 USC § 102(a) for being anticipated by the Moriguchi publication. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 10 recites a method for monitoring operation of a spacecraft. The method includes, among other steps, processing telemetry data by "automatically generating a graph of said helix current data over a predetermined period of time in response to logon by the customer on a network site, said graph being generated to show an anomalous condition of the spacecraft as a sinusoidal waveform having peak-to-peak values which exceed a predetermined range."

Moriguchi discloses transmitting helix current data from a satellite to a ground station. The data may be used to determine whether there is deterioration in the satellite mount. However, Moriguchi does not disclose automatically generating a graph of helix current data in response to logon by a customer, e.g., when a customer logs onto a website the website control code detects the logon and then automatically controls generation of a graph of helix current data. Moriguchi also

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fails to disclose generating a graph which shows an anomalous condition of the spacecraft as a sinusoidal waveform having peak-to-peak values which exceed a predetermined range.

Absent at teaching or suggestion of these features, it is respectfully submitted that the Moriguchi publication cannot anticipate claim 10. Applicants further submit that these differences are sufficient to render claim 10 and its dependent claims non-obvious and thus patentable over Moriguchi.

IV. The Rejection of Claim 29.

The Examiner rejected claim 29 under 35 USC § 103(a) based on a combination of Conrad and Moriguchi. This claim has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

V. New Claims 32 and 33.

New claims 32 and 33 have been added to the application.

Claim 32 recites that the method of claim 22 further comprises "displaying icons which designate how the processed data is presented to a customer." (See, for example, Fig. 5 for support). The Conrad and Cohen patents do not teach or suggest these features.

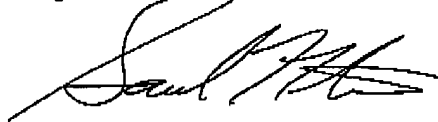
Claim 33 recites that the icons of claim 32 "designate how data is presented to a customer designate presenting the processed data in graph form, presenting the processed data in text form, and presenting the processed data in spreadsheet form." The Conrad and Cohen patents also fail to teach or suggest these features.

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In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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